

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4636

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: AMBASSADOR CHATS WITH VIOLA

1. PRESIDENT VIDELA HAS TOLD ME SEVERAL TIMES "WHEN YOU CAN'T CONTACT ME, BE SURE AND TALK TO GENERAL VIOLA. WHEN YOU TALK TO VIOLA IT'S LIKE TALKING WITH ME." PURSUANT TO THIS SUGGESTION, I MET WITH GENERAL VIOLA AT 1900 TODAY (JUNE 15) AT HIS OFFICE.

2. EVEN THOUGH I LEFT ORIGINAL OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANSWER TO PRESIDENT VIDELA'S LETTER WITH FONMIN MONTES EARLIER IN DAY, I HAND-DELIVERED COPY OF SAME LETTER TO GENERAL VIOLA. HE READ SAME AND COMMENTED IT WAS ENCOURAGING BOTH PRESIDENTS MAINTAINED A DIALOGUE. VIOLA STATED HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S STAND IN AFRICA.

3. VIOLA THEN AFFIRMED GOA INTENDED TO INVITE OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO VISIT ARGENTINA. HE HOPED HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WOULD COME TO ARGENTINA WITH AN OPEN MIND AND NOT WITH A PRE-DETERMINED JUDGMENT. HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ON RESULTS OF COMMISSION IF GOOD FAITH WERE SHOWN ON PART OF THAT GROUP.

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4. MILITARY TRAINING WAS FOREMOST IN VIOLA'S MIND. HE SAID THE TROOPS WERE GETTING IMPATIENT. I REMINDED THE GOOD GENERAL OF PREVIOUS AGREEMENT THAT TRAINING WOULD BE RECOMMENDED IF FOLLOWING CONDITIONS PRECEDENT OCCURRED:
(A) GOA INVITE OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO VISIT COUNTRY;
(B) GROUND RULES WERE AGREED UPON BETWEEN GOA AND COMMISSION SO AS TO MAKE COMMISSION'S MISSION OPERABLE;
(C) SENATE WOULD BE CONTACTED TO ADVISE THEM OF ARGENTINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS STATUS. I ALSO REMINDED HIM THAT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE STARTING NEXT WEEK. I SUGGESTED PERHAPS

BY NEXT WEEK HIS FONMIN COULD MAKE A FAVORABLE ANNOUNCEMENT.
VIOLA AGREED.

5. GENERAL VIOLA EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION OVER BELL
HELICOPTER'S RECISION OF CONTRACT FOR GOA'S PURCHASE OF
SEVEN CHOPPERS. HE SAID MOST OF THESE CHOPPERS WERE FOR
TRANSPORTATION PURPOSES. HE STATED HE HAD BEEN INFORMED
BY BELL COMPANY RECISION WAS DUE TO INABILITY TO GET
EXPORT LICENSE BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS REASONS.

6. I TOLD VIOLA TIME WAS OF ESSENCE ON RIGHT OF OPTION
CASES. I INFORMED HIM WE WOULD BE MOVING RAPIDLY TO GET
CLEARANCE ON SEVERAL CASES SHORTLY. VIOLA DESCRIBED
GOA'S HANDLING OF RIGHT OF OPTION CASES AS ONE BIG MESS.
HE SAID WHOLE RIGHT OF OPTION CONCEPT NEEDS AN OVER-
HAUL. HE STATED IT WAS NOT GEARED FOR EFFICIENCY, BUT
INSTEAD WAS A BUREAUCRATIC BLUNDER. HE WAS DISTRESSED
BY NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO BE CONSULTED BEFORE A
CASE CAN BE APPROVED. HE WAS CRITICAL OF SOME OF HIS
HARD-LINE ARMY COLLEAGUES WHO OBJECTED AT EVERYTHING.

7. IT BECAME APPARENT VIDELA AND VIOLA ARE BEING
BLOCKED BY THEIR ARMY BRETHERN AT EVERY STEP TAKEN IN
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AN ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE RIGHT OF OPTION CONCEPT.
VIOLA NEVERTHELESS STATED IT WAS THEIR HOPE TO START
RELEASING PRISONERS ASAP.

8. COMMENT: I HAVE SEEN VIOLA IN MUCH BETTER SPIRITS.
HE APPEARED QUITE NERVOUS. THE INABILITY TO PURCHASE
MILITARY TRAINING NOW PLUS THE REJECTION OF EXPORT
LICENSES FOR HELICOPTERS APPEARED TO HAVE ADVERSELY
AFFECTED HIS USUAL MILD AND FRIENDLY DISPOSITION.
CASTRO

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